(ii) State Government of West Bengal has installed Arsenic Treatment Units at a number of places.

(iii) Construction of Replacement tubewells by Government of West Bengal in Arsenic affected districts.

(iv) CGWB has carried out explorations at 50 nos. of sites in the arsenic affected areas. Out of these, 34 nos. of successful tubewells have been handed over to PHED, Government of West Bengal for piped water supply scheme.

(v) CGWB has implemented Artificial Recharge projects to dilute the arsenic contaminated ground water.

(vi) Department of Drinking Water Supply has launched programmes with the objective to provide safe-drinking facilities in rural habitations affected by water quality problems like fluorosis, arsenic, nitrate etc.

CGWB is in the process of undertaking studies to find out occurrence of arsenic in ground water in other parts of the country.

Decline in ground water level in Madhya Pradesh

†2153. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that level of ground water in many districts of Madhya Pradesh has declined steeply from its normal level;

(b) the reasons therefor and remedical measures taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are assisting States to enable them to provide potable water; if so, the amount of money given to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for decline in ground water level are rapid pace of urbanisation, increasing demand for agricultural, industrial and domestic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

purposes, change in cropping pattern and excessive withdrawals of ground water, etc.

Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government has taken following measures to recharge the underground water source:-

(i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge of Ground Water in the country.

(ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artifical Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artifical recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artifical recharge of ground water.

(v) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(vi) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (*www.egwbindia.com*) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(c) Yes, Sir. The amount released by the Department of Drinking Water Supply, under the Ministry of Rural Development to the Government of Madhya Pradesh under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during 2002-2003 is Rs. 71.59 crore.